Dan Mitchell's Blog Continues

Dan Mitchell's blog about UCLA and UC. The original goes back to 2009 at uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com. Daniel J.B. Mitchell is a Professor-Emeritus in the Anderson and Luskin Schools at UCLA.

Sunday, August 23, 2026

The Pay and Benefits Man

From UCNet:

UC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava made the following announcement:

Dear Colleagues,

Following an extensive nationwide search, I am pleased to announce that **Calvin W. Turner** has been selected as the vice president of Systemwide Shared Services (VP SWSS), effective August 10.

This is a critical role on my senior leadership team and an important next step in the evolution of UC Operations. It reflects our continued work to build a more integrated, strategic approach to serving UC employees and retirees.

In September 2025, I announced the formation of SWSS, uniting UCPath and the UC Retirement Administration Services Center (RASC) under one leader. This was an intentional step toward

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Labels

- academic freedom
- admissions
- Alcorn State U
- Arizona State University
- athletics
- Boston University
- Brown University
- Bryant U
- CalTech
- Colorado State U
- Columbia
- community colleges
- controller
- Cornell
- CSU
- Dartmouth
- diversity
- Drake
- due process
- Duke
- East Carolina State U
- email fraud
- Emory
- faculty center
- Fisk
- fund raising
- Georgetown
- governor

strengthening coordination across these critical functions, creating greater alignment in how we deliver services, and building a shared-services organization positioned to meet the evolving needs of the university.

With approximately 600 dedicated UCOP employees supporting employees and retirees across the UC system, strong and sustained leadership for this organization is essential. I am very pleased that Calvin will lead this next phase of our work.

Calvin brings deep expertise in shared services, operational leadership and organizational transformation to this role. He started his UC career in 2021 as the executive director of UCPath. Since October 2025, he has also served as the interim VP of SWSS.

Before UC, he was the director of the National Finance Center (NFC), a leading federal shared-services provider supporting payroll, human resources, financial, insurance and administrative services. NFC provides payroll, HR, financial and administrative services to more than 650,000 employees in 170 agencies, and health insurance services on behalf of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to the entire federal civilian workforce and tribal organizations.

As NFC Director, Calvin successfully ensured continuity of business operations through natural disasters and unprecedented government shutdowns, while simultaneously growing NFC's customer base, implementing operational improvements and launching organizational transformation initiatives to improve transparency and customer service.

Prior to joining NFC, Calvin had more than 20 years of banking leadership experience at Hancock Whitney Bank, Hibernia National Bank (now CapitalOne) and the Federal Reserve Bank, and he was also previously an associate instructor with the University of Phoenix at the New Orleans campus. Calvin has a master's degree in public administration and an undergraduate degree in business management and communication. Calvin will continue to be based in Riverside, California, and will travel to Oakland and all UC locations periodically.

Over the coming months, Calvin will continue engaging leaders and staff across UCPath, RASC, UCOP and the broader UC system to further develop a strategic roadmap for SWSS, advancing our vision for a more connected and effective service experience for UC employees and retirees across the full journey from "hire" through "retire." This work will also focus on strengthening operational excellence, accountability and service across UC Operations. Calvin will also launch a search for the executive director of UCPath.

I would like to thank the search advisory committee for their tremendous effort and helpful insights during this process:

- Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair, Systemwide Academic Senate and Distinguished Professor, UC Davis
- Erin Gore, Senior Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, UCSF
- Kurt Schnier, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, UC Merced
- Dianna Henderson, Vice President of Human Resources, UCOP
- Van Williams, Vice President of Digital Innovation and Technology, UCOP
- Christine Lovely, Chief Human Resources Officer, UCLA
- Caín Díaz, Associate Vice President, Budget Analysis and Planning, UCOP
- Marisa McAuliffe, Chief Policy Advisor, President's Executive Office

In addition, my thanks to several other colleagues who advised on this search:

- Amy Block Joy, Professor Emerita and Chair-Elect, Council of UC Emeriti Associations
- Susan Abeles, Chair, Council of UC Retiree Associations
- Jenny Kao, Vice President and Chief of Staff to the President
- Nathan Brostrom, UC Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

I also want to share my gratitude for the executive search team from Isaacson, Miller, as well as Pamela Wu and Quincy Kinsey in Systemwide HR's Executive Search and Recruitment Team, who provided support for this search.

Please join me in congratulating Calvin on this well-deserved appointment. I look forward to working with him and all of you as we continue building a stronger, more integrated UC Operations organization that serves the university with excellence.

Sincerely,

Rachael Nava

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

University of California

===

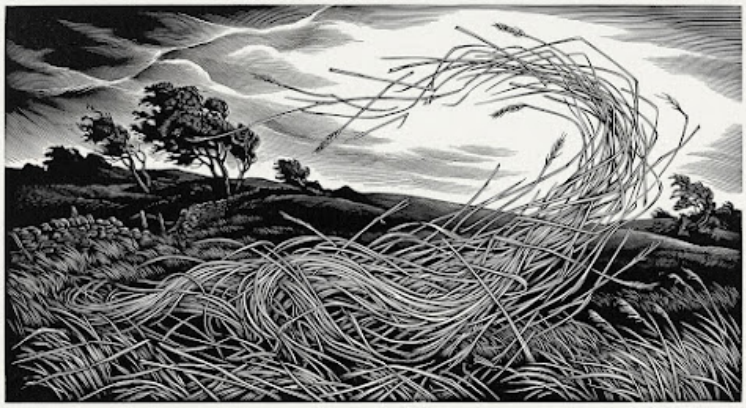
- Harvard
- health care
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Johns Hopkins
- legislature
- Michigan State University
- Middlebury
- Milliken
- miscellaneous
- MIT
- Northwestern U
- NYU
- Oakland U
- online education
- pension
- pensions
- plagiarism
- politics
- Princeton U
- Rice
- Rutgers
- Saint Louis U
- Smith College
- South Florida State College
- Stanford
- State Budget
- strikes
- Texas A and M
- Texas Tech U
- traffic
- transportation
- Tufts
- tuition
- U of Alabama
- U of Chicago
- U of Colorado
- U of Houston
- U of Kansas
- U of Maryland
- U of Michigan
- U of Northern Colorado
- U of Pennsylvania
- U of Texas
- UC
- UC budget crisis
- UC Regents
- uc retirement
- UC-Berkeley
- UC-Davis
- UC-Irvine
- UC-San Diego
- UC-San Francisco
- UCLA
- UCOP
- UCPD
- ucrp
- University Club
- USC
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute
- Washington U
- West Point
- Western U of Health Sciences
- William Carey U
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Yale

Source: https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/employee-news/calvin-w-turner-appointed-vice-president-of-systemwide-shared-services/.

at August 23, 2026 No comments:

Labels: health care, pension, uc retirement, UCOP

Straws in the Wind - Part 442



From the Chronicle of Higher Education: *The University of Texas at Austin unveiled plans... for a sweeping makeover of its undergraduate core curriculum, replacing a sprawling system of hundreds of course options with a more prescriptive menu organized around foundational texts, broad fields of study, and what the university calls the "fundamental questions and themes" of human life. The proposal, detailed by President Jim Davis during a meeting of the university system's Board of Regents, would reduce the number of credit hours in the core curriculum, from 42 to 36. Some core credit designations are slated to be replaced with categories such as "Western Civilization," "Masterworks of Literature," "Great Questions of Human Life," "Principles of American Politics," and "Computer Science & AI."*

That plan is laid out in a much-anticipated report... from a 22-member faculty task force whose members Davis selected in the fall to "identify gaps in quality, rigor, or intellectual cohesion" in UT-Austin's core and propose solutions. Administrators hope to implement the new curriculum by the fall of 2028. The goal, Davis told regents, is to "wipe the slate clean and rewrite the core from the ground up," noting that the existing system "has devolved over time into a haphazard grab bag of classes."

The proposed changes at the state's flagship come as Texas universities adjust to Senate Bill 37, which gives governing boards greater control over academic offerings. The University of Houston, Texas A&M University, and Texas Tech University have announced similar reviews of their core curricula; the latter two systems have faced federal lawsuits challenging restrictions on course content...

Full story at https://www.chronicle.com/article/republicans-want-colleges-to-emphasize-western-civ-ut-austin-plans-to-do-just-that.

at August 23, 2026 No comments:

Labels: politics, Texas A and M, Texas Tech U, U of Houston, U of Texas

Hacked

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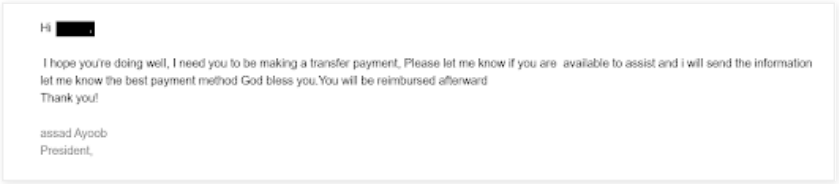
From the Daily Californian: *Most know better than to wire money to a Nigerian prince — but today's scammers have adapted their strategies, according to Charron Andrus, associate chief information security officer at UC Berkeley. "Phishing," according to UC Berkeley's Information Security Office, is when "cyber criminals trick you into giving them your personal information, like passwords or credit card details, by pretending to be a legitimate company or person." To do this, they often send fake emails and messages, or even create fake websites.*

Undoubtedly, phishing has made its way to UC Berkeley. The ASUC Communications email account was hacked, and unauthorized phishing messages were sent from its email address to additional recipients before the ASUC Communications team could recover the account. The ASUC Communications email account received a phishing message on Aug. 11 disguised as a Google Docs proposal, according to ASUC Chief Communications Officer Juliette Rackohn. The phishing email came from a hacked UC Berkeley email address with which the ASUC Communications account had previously corresponded.

The ASUC account and the hacked UC Berkeley account were secured, though not before unauthorized messages were sent to other recipients, according to Rackohn...

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/asuc-hacked-by-phishing-scam-campus-office-launches-phish-tank/article_49e5ee58-e67d-42ec-b5e3-226d91ac1721.html.

I don't know if the Nigerian princes are still out there, but there are still old-fashioned hacks floating around. Received a few days ago:


Hi [redacted],

I hope you're doing well, I need you to be making a transfer payment, Please let me know if you are available to assist and i will send the information let me know the best payment method God bless you.You will be reimbursed afterward
Thank you!

assad Ayoob
President,

at August 23, 2026 No comments:

Labels: email fraud, UC-Berkeley

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 190

From the Harvard Crimson: *House Republicans published a sweeping report... accusing Harvard of failing to protect national security interests through repeated academic collaborations with China. The 53-page report — released jointly by the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party and the Education and Workforce Committee — is the product of a 15-month investigation into Harvard's ties to China and the CCP. It slams Harvard's research compliance program as "devoid of substance" and claims the University enabled a long history of research relationships with China that put sensitive military technology at risk. Though some of its findings rehash previous investigations, the report makes a broader case against the University's protocols for monitoring foreign entanglements, based on interviews with top Harvard officials and a review of thousands of documents shared with the committee by Harvard...*

A Harvard spokesperson pushed back against the report's findings, saying the University "follows national security standards and guidance set by the federal government for its international collaborations." ...

[The report is] the latest episode in a renewed effort by the federal government to scrutinize Harvard's foreign entanglements. The Department of Justice is currently investigating whether the University's acceptance of "Chinese-linked" financial aid gifts violated civil rights law and the

Trump administration has long pointed to Harvard's ties to China to justify its campaign against international students...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/8/18/house-republicans-harvard-china-report/.

at August 23, 2026 No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

Saturday, August 22, 2026

Robinson Retires as UC general counsel

From UCNet:

UC Board of Regents Chair Maria Anguiano and UC President James B. Milliken made the following announcement last week:

Dear Colleagues,

We write to share that Charles F. "Charlie" Robinson, general counsel and senior vice president, Legal Affairs, has announced his plans to retire in June 2027, after 20 years as the University of California's chief legal officer.

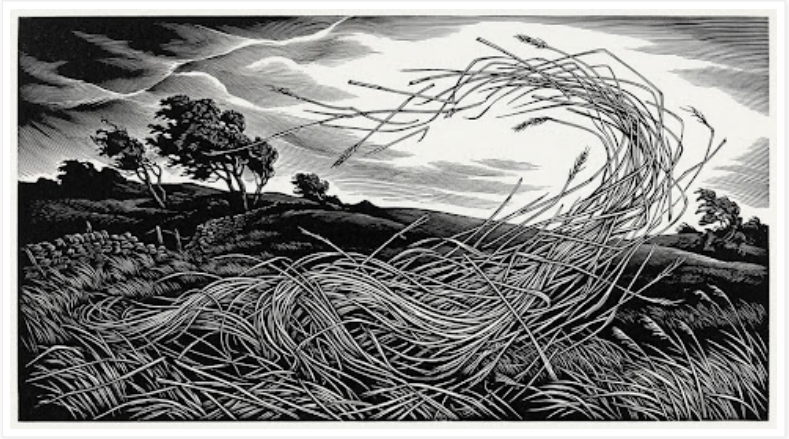
Charlie joined UC as the general counsel in January 2007, and in the two decades since, he has built and led one of the most respected legal departments in higher education — a team of more than 165 attorneys spanning our 10 campuses, six medical centers, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. As the university's chief legal officer with responsibility for all of the institution's legal matters, Charlie has provided counsel to the Board of Regents, five university presidents, and countless chancellors and other university leaders, guiding the institution through an extraordinary range of legal and institutional challenges...

Full release at https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/employee-news/charles-f-robinson-to-retire-as-general-counsel-and-senior-vice-president-legal-affairs/.

at August 22, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Milliken, UC Regents, UCOP

Straws in the Wind - Part 441



From the Daily Princetonian: *A federal appeals court ruled that a Title IX lawsuit brought by a male undergraduate student who was suspended in 2023 after being found responsible for choking two female students can move forward. The ruling, decided on July 21, reversed the New Jersey district court's decision dismissing the lawsuit in its entirety. The ruling allows the male student to continue pursuing his Title IX lawsuit against the University. At issue is whether or not sex motivated the University's decision to suspend the male student.*

At the center of the case are claims from two female students, identified in court documents as "Sarah Smith" and "Jane Roe." They filed separate complaints against the male student, "John Doe," alleging that he choked them in arguments at or on the way to campus parties during the spring of 2023. The following fall, Doe, a sophomore at the time, was investigated for the two incidents after Smith and Roe separately submitted reports to the University. According to court documents, the Faculty-Student Committee on Discipline found Doe responsible for assaulting Smith and Roe. Doe was also found in violation of the University's Alcohol Policy by allegedly hosting and serving alcohol to underage individuals.

Doe was suspended for two years on grounds that he violated the University's Personal Safety Policy, which bans "any physical assault committed … on the premises of the University or in the local vicinity, especially when unprovoked and/or when injury results." Doe filed a lawsuit against the University for breach of contract, Title IX violations, and negligence in June 2024, which was later dismissed by the New Jersey district court for failing to state a claim.

In a ruling released this July, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit reversed the dismissal unanimously and sent the case back to the district court for further evidence-gathering and trial. The appeals court found that Doe's allegations about the University's handling of the investigation were sufficient to allow his Title IX claim to proceed. Doe alleged that both Smith and Roe's stories had "evolved" over the course of Princeton's internal investigation and an "inconsistent manner of seeking out evidence." Universities including Princeton have "struggled to find the proper balance" between protecting victims and ensuring that respondents receive fairness, Circuit Judge Cheryl Ann Krause wrote in the ruling...

Full story at https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2026/08/princeton-news-titleix-lawsuit-suspended-male-student-appeals-court.

at August 22, 2026 No comments:

Labels: diversity, due process, Princeton U

Another traffic mess on the 405 through the Sepulveda Pass this weekend

Another traffic mess on the 405 through the Sepulveda Pass this weekend. From Patch:

> *Traffic will be impacted on the 405 Freeway and nearby roads beginning Friday when construction will shut down several lanes and ramps of the interstate in the San Fernando Valley for the entire weekend.*
>
> *Here's a look at the closures, planned for 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21 through 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 24:*
>
> - *The southbound 405 will be reduced to three lanes between Ventura Boulevard and Mulholland Drive*
> - *The Ventura Boulevard on-ramp to the southbound 405 will be closed*
> - *The northbound 405 off-ramp to Getty Center Drive will be closed*

Source: https://patch.com/california/santamonica/s/kn4f0/405-freeway-closures-to-snarl-traffic-in-la-county-beginning-friday.

at August 22, 2026 No comments:

Labels: traffic, UCLA

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 189 (parts unknown edition)

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard agreed [last] Monday to a $53 million settlement to resolve civil lawsuits accusing the school of negligence in its handling of donated human remains. The lawsuits stem from the conduct of Cedric Lodge, a former HMS morgue manager who was sentenced to eight years in prison in December for unlawfully transporting stolen human remains. Federal prosecutors said that between 2018 and August 2022, Lodge took organs, brains, faces, and other body parts from donated cadavers after they had been used for teaching and research but before they could be disposed of. He brought the remains to his New Hampshire home and sold them to buyers in several states, including Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Six co-conspirators who purchased remains from Lodge have since pleaded guilty and been sentenced.*

As part of the settlement, HMS will make a statement to claimant families via a live webinar affirming that Lodge's conduct was "morally reprehensible" and inconsistent with Harvard's standards, along with a summary of changes made to the Anatomical Gift Program...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/8/19/hms-morgue-settlement/.

Old timers will remember that UCLA had its own body parts scandal back in the day:

https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2009-may-15-me-willedbody15-story.html.

And there was a still earlier scandal at UCLA regarding disposal of bodies which is referenced in this article:

https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2005-oct-26-me-body26-story.html.

at August 22, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Harvard, health care, UCLA

Friday, August 21, 2026

Excuse me. Can you tell me how many CFOs we have?

This blog from time to time has pointed to the lack of up-to-date campus budgetary numbers, particularly at a time when cutbacks are being justified as due to the "deficit." As blog readers will know, we got rid of one Chief Financial Officer for saying Very Bad Words about previous budget releases. We then got an interim CFO as a replacement. Now we seem also to have a supplemental CFO. From the California Post:

Former longtime Lakers executive Tim Harris has found a landing spot — at his alma mater. The UCLA alumnus is consulting for Chancellor Julio Frenk, a role that allows the veteran marketing and business operations specialist to share his expertise on a volunteer basis, the California Post has learned. Reached by phone, Harris confirmed to The Post that he was doing some consulting

work for the university but referred all questions to the chancellor's office. One person familiar with the situation told The Post that Harris would examine revenue streams involving various aspects of campus operations, including athletics...

Full story at https://nypost.com/2026/08/20/sports/ucla-getting-consulting-advice-from-ex-lakers-exec-tim-harris/.

An interesting question is how one can "examine revenue streams" without a budget.

at August 21, 2026 No comments:

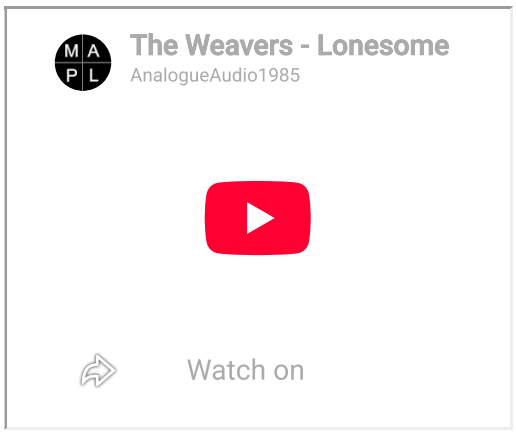
Labels: athletics, UCLA

Traveling

From the California Post: *There's one national ranking that USC and UCLA football are almost guaranteed to finish in the top 20 every year now – miles traveled. That's the case again in 2026. USC will rank No. 8 among the 138 Football Bowl Subdivision teams with a whopping 16,290 round-trip miles for its five road games, according to TripBalls. The Trojans will travel to face Rutgers, Penn State, Wisconsin, Indiana and rival UCLA. Not far behind is UCLA, which ranks No. 12 with 13,636 round-trip miles for its five road games. The Bruins' road schedule includes games at California, Maryland, Oregon, Minnesota and Michigan...*

Full story at https://nypost.com/2026/08/13/sports/usc-ucla-football-among-most-well-traveled-teams-2026/.

As blog readers will know, these travel distances are the result of the move of both universities to the Big Ten.

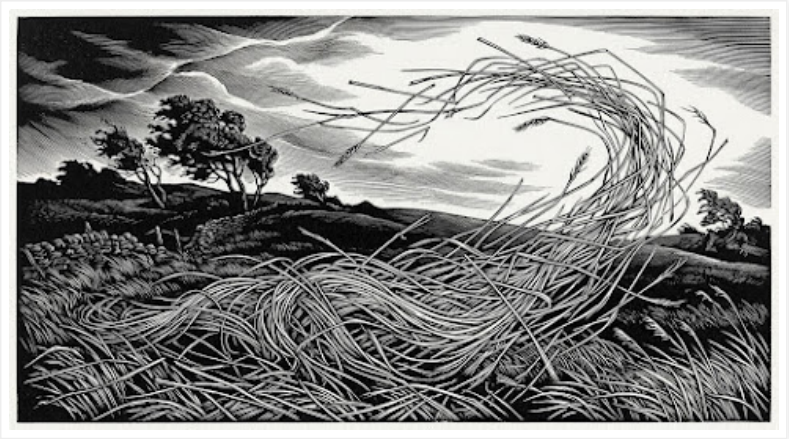


Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5ywcLXv-SA.

at August 21, 2026 No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA, USC

Straws in the Wind - Part 440



From the Cornell Daily Sun: *Cornell alumni and students who received financial aid anytime between Fall 2003 and February 2024 are beginning to receive payments from a suit alleging Cornell and 16 other institutions conspired to price fix tuition and aid. The suit, Corzo et. al v. Brown University et. al, alleges the universities worked together to favor wealthy students and reduce financial aid to students through an organization known as the 568 Presidents Group — ultimately violating the Sherman Antitrust Act, which prohibits entities from cooperating to limit competition. The group was named for an exemption to the Sherman Antitrust Act that allows need-blind institutions to collaborate on financial aid principles to make financial aid similar among universities.*

In the lawsuit, a group of student plaintiffs alleged that the universities did not act need blind and instead considered potential admits' ability to pay, collaborating to set their aid at similar levels — thereby limiting the choices a student might have in receiving financial aid. Overall, the plaintiffs said, aid was lower than it would have been without the collusion. On July 2, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois Matthew Kennelly ordered the first distribution of settlements to be sent out to affected alumni and students, Cornellians included. Though Cornell has not yet settled, students and alumni are receiving payments because, under antitrust law, any co-conspirator is held liable for the overall harm, regardless of if a specific university has settled or not...

Full story at https://www.cornellsun.com/article/2026/08/payments-go-out-in-financial-aid-price-fixing-suit-but-cornell-has-yet-to-settle.

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From The Dartmouth: *On July 20, 3,988 Dartmouth students and alumni began receiving settlement payments from the class action lawsuit Henry, et al. v. Brown University, et. al, in which the plaintiffs alleged that 17 universities, including Dartmouth, colluded to lower admitted students' financial aid awards. The 17 universities comprise the 568 Presidents Group, which claimed protection from antitrust laws under Section 568 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 by devising "a set of common standards" to determine students' financial aid, described as the "consensus approach." All 17 members were accused of having violated the 568 Exemption's need-blind admissions requirement by considering applicants' financial circumstances. The group disbanded in 2022; College spokesperson Jana Barnello declined to comment on why Dartmouth joined and left the 568 group.*

According to the settlement's website, the first rounds of payments — which average $2,000 per claimant — was sent electronically on July 20. Payments for claimants who requested a physical check were mailed on July 28. On Feb. 25, 2024, Dartmouth agreed to a settlement payment of $33.75 million. Dartmouth's settlement, along with settlement claims from nine other universities, contributed to the checks distributed to affected students this July...

Full story at https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2026/08/dartmouth-students-begin-receiving-payments-from-2022-financial-aid-class-action-settlement.

at August 21, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Cornell, Dartmouth

No More - Part 2

From the Daily Bruin: *About 60 parents rallied outside Murphy Hall on Monday to protest the closure of two UCLA childcare centers. The Krieger and University Centers, which are under UCLA's Early Care and Education Program, will close June 30, 2027 because its operations are no longer sustainable, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Darnell Hunt announced in a Thursday email to parents... The closure of the childcare centers also came as UCLA faces broader budget concerns, including a $220 million deficit, according to interim CFO Reem Hanna-Harwell...*

Anna Markowitz, an associate professor at the School of Education and Information Studies and the president of the UCLA Faculty Association, said seeing faculty from various departments come together to support childcare at UCLA was empowering. Markowitz said she appreciated a speaker who challenged the university's reasoning for closing ECE because of budgetary constraints...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/08/17/parents-protest-sudden-announcement-of-ucla-childcare-center-closures.

As blog readers will know, our previous post on this matter of Aug. 16 noted that we do not have budget estimates for 2025-26, the year that ended last June 30. Nor do we have an estimated budget for the current fiscal year. Whether these numbers are available to the folks in Murphy Hall is unclear. We also noted that the last two years for which we do have budgets 2023-24 and 2024-25) showed surpluses, not deficits. (The $220 "deficit" cited by the Daily Bruin is undefined.)

at August 21, 2026 No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Defense Audit

From DefenseScoop: *Defense Department leaders instructed 30 American universities and specialized technology institutes to immediately audit their academic, financial and research connections to foreign entities that the government considers too risky or hostile to engage with. The initiation of these probes, revealed [last] Monday, marks DOD's latest move in a yearslong effort to counter what it views as adversarial influences infiltrating U.S. academia...*

Full story at https://defensescoop.com/2026/08/17/pentagon-probes-30-u-s-academic-institutions-for-potential-ties-to-adversaries/.

The institutions - which include **UCLA, UC-Berkeley, and UC-San Diego** - are:

Bryant University, Cornell University, Drake University, Duke University, Emory University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University, Northeastern State University-Tahlequah, Oklahoma State University, Penn State University, Portland State University, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Stony Brook University, **UC-Berkeley, UCLA, UC-San Diego**, University of Cincinnati, University of Delaware, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of South Carolina, University of Southern California, University of Texas at Austin, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

at August 21, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Bryant U, Cornell, Drake, Duke, Emory, Georgetown, Harvard, Illinois Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins, MIT, NYU, UC-Berkeley, UC-San Diego, UCLA, USC, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Thursday, August 20, 2026

The A-G Charge

Our Class Goals
A is for Admissions
B is for BOARS
C is for Charge
D is for Determine
E is for Educational requirements
F is for Framework
G is for Go to it.

Yesterday, we noted that on August 11, the Academic Council had charged BOARS with analyzing the possible return of the SAT for admissions purposes. The Council also charged BOARS with analyzing the A-G requirements for high school students seeking admission to UC:

The Academic Council charges the 2026-27 Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) to: 1) initiate an overarching review of UC's A-G framework to determine whether the number and general subject areas of currently required and recommended A-G courses adequately prepare first-year applicants for academic success at UC; and 2) submit an initial report to the Academic Council by May 14, 2027. BOARS should recognize, per Senate Bylaw 145.B.7, that "[t]he committee shall consult with representatives from the State Board of Education and K-12

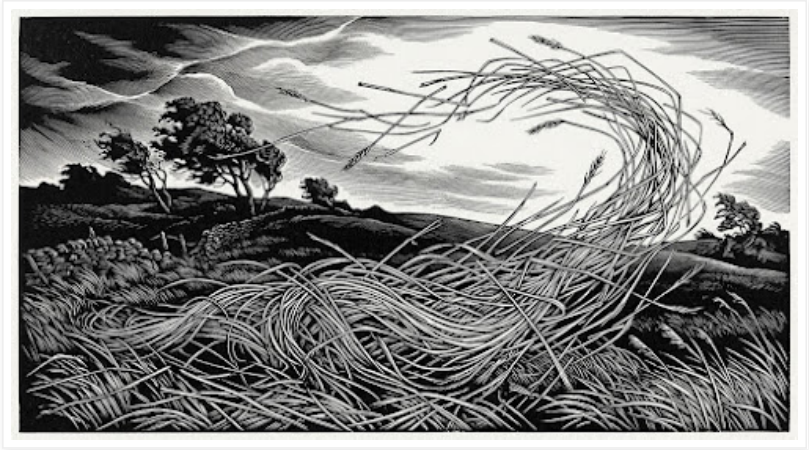
subject matter specialists on proposed changes to course requirements for undergraduate admissions." As appropriate, BOARS may convene one or more subcommittees and identify subject matter specialists and partners or consultants from other California education segments (e.g., California State University, California Community Colleges) to assist in their study.

Full document at https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/council-chair-to-boars-charges-on-undergraduate-admissions.pdf.

at August 20, 2026 No comments:

Labels: admissions, community colleges, CSU, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 439



From the NY Times: *The president of the major sociology association, Shelley Correll, had just taken the stage at the discipline's big annual conference in New York City on Sunday when a few dozen sociologists began chanting "Free Palestine" and unfurled a banner. The short disruption was partly drowned out by turning up Dr. Correll's entrance music, Dolly Parton's "Big Dreams and Faded Jeans." Tuning out the broader cacophony around sociology is not so easy, however.*

Republicans in some states have singled out sociology as a poster child of everything that is wrong with academia, saying that it has become a hotbed of leftist activism. And rifts have formed within the discipline over whether to take political stances on issues like the war in Gaza. At the same time, fewer students are signing up for sociology classes, making the debates feel all the more urgent.

..."We lost something through this pursuit of partisanship," said Fabio Rojas, a professor at Indiana University who writes about schisms in sociology, adding, "There are a lot of people who are just like, 'I want to go to work and not hear about Palestine.'"

Sociology is sprawling. It includes ethnographers who conduct in-depth interviews, data-driven researchers and those who do both. Many sociologists study crime, demography, religion and other topics that do not generally irk conservatives. Sociology has also become a home for scholars who examine sexism, racism, policing, immigration and other politically charged topics... Many sociologists argue that it's impossible to study human society deeply without seeing inequality and discrimination. And those who support activism argue that it is not a big step to then use that knowledge to push for public policy changes...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/14/us/activist-sociology-independent.html.

at August 20, 2026 No comments:

Labels: politics

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 188

From the Harvard Crimson: *The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is considering requiring some staff in academic departments to return to the office four days a week, according to a person familiar with the matter and a message sent to members of Harvard's staff union. Under the proposal, staff in some faculty- and student-facing roles would be required to come in up to four days a week. Formal implementation would not take place until at least January, according to the person. The proposal is the latest move toward stricter in-person work requirements across Harvard this summer. Harvard College announced in June that it would move toward a five-day in-office mandate. One month later, Harvard's Alumni Affairs and Development Office unveiled a two-day in-person requirement for roughly 150 staff...*

Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers leaders acknowledged that some staff had heard of potential changes via coworkers, supervisors, or new job descriptions, adding that there would likely be an exceptions process if the new policy were to be implemented. "We have not yet begun negotiations with administrators about this proposed change, but those discussions will likely begin soon," organizers wrote in the message...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/8/18/fas-four-day-office-requirement/.

at August 20, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Academic Council asks BOARS for its thoughts on SAT

On August 11th, the chair of the Academic Council sent the chair of BOARS the charge below to be accomplished by February 12th of next year, which happens to be Lincoln's birthday:

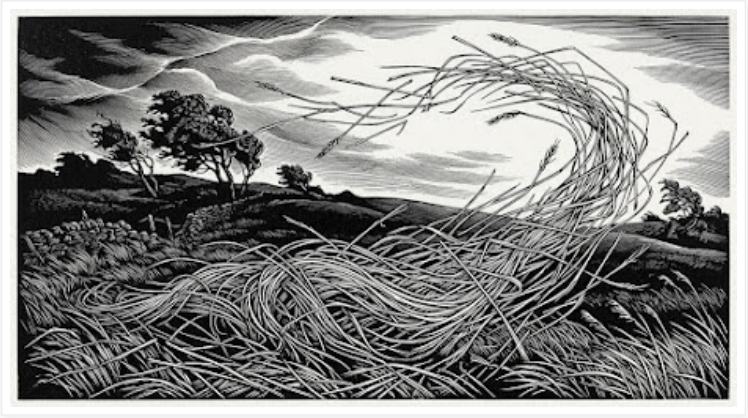
The Academic Council charges the 2026-27 Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) to: 1) assess the potential advantages and disadvantages of the use of standardized test scores in UC undergraduate admissions as well as the various ways that such test scores could be used in admissions decision-making; and 2) submit a final report and policy recommendations to the Academic Council by ***February 12, 2027****. BOARS should recognize that the Assembly of the Academic Senate in 2020 endorsed the Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) report's recommendation that "the University revisit within five years whether the added value of the SAT/ACT still holds, using the methods employed in the STTF report," and that standardized tests and the admissions context have since changed. As appropriate, BOARS may convene a subcommittee and identify subject matter specialists and other partners or consultants to assist in their study.*

Full document at https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/council-chair-to-boars-charges-on-undergraduate-admissions.pdf.

at August 19, 2026 No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 438



From Inside Higher Ed: *Thirty senators wrote to Secretary of State Marco Rubio urging his agency to process international student and scholar visas in time for the start of the academic year. Led by Alex Padilla, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee, the letter cited "the ongoing unavailability of visa appointments during the peak visa application season for students and scholars." No timely visa appointments are available for students at some embassies and consulates, the senators said.*

"These challenges come at a time when major academic institutions need skilled, international talent to begin their semesters. Without a fix, the repercussions will be felt across the academic and skilled-technical talent pipeline," the letter argued...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/08/13/senators-prod-state-dept-process-international-visas.

at August 19, 2026 No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics

ICE Hazard

From the Daily Californian: *The Berkeley International Office, or BIO, announced... that it is temporarily suspending all applications for Course Credit Curricular Practical Training, the program that allows international students to work in paid off-campus internships. The suspension follows an Aug. 12 memo from ICE warning all Student and Exchange Visitor Program-certified universities — nearly all American colleges — that officials who improperly authorize Curricular Practical Training, or CPT, could face personal liability. ICE threatened to remove universities' abilities to enroll international students if they did not comply. CPT is a work authorization program that allows international students to work and gain practical experience off campus, either as a requirement of their degree or in exchange for course credit.*

...ICE urged that work authorizations only be approved for major requirements, meaning F-1 students will be unable to apply for work opportunities in exchange for course credit... International students are still eligible for on-campus jobs, limited to 20 hours a week...*

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/uc-berkeley-yields-to-ice-threat-suspends-course-credit-work-applications-for-international-students/article_f7d3e264-99a5-456f-9ed0-87d48b1dc1be.html.

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*An F-1 visa is a non-immigrant academic student visa that allows foreign nationals to study full-time at an SEVP-certified college, university, high school, or language training program in the

United States. SEVP = Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

at August 19, 2026 No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC-Berkeley

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

People's Park

Meanwhile, back at the park...

From the San Francisco Standard: *Over the decades, People's Park at UC Berkeley has been different things to different people: a physical manifestation of the Free Speech movement, a place for teens to light a joint and throw DIY concerts, a neglected magnet for criminal behavior. Since January 2024, however, the main symbol for the park's future has been a 17-foot wall of 160 stacked shipping containers erected around its rectangular perimeter. At the site, a red crane now extends into the sky and tall towers of glass have emerged from behind the barrier.*

The city's most controversial housing project is set to be completed by the time students arrive for next year's fall semester. The $312 million Judith E. Heumann House, named for the disability rights pioneer, will offer apartment-style housing for more than 1,100 undergraduates. However, a long-promised project meant to house the people the development displaced has yet to begin...

No Berkeley housing fight has been this bitter... Protesters tore down a fence the university erected for preliminary soil testing in January 2021, months before the UC Board of Regents approved the project. What followed was years of sustained protest and escalating legal challenges from a coalition of NIMBY and activist groups, including Make UC a Good Neighbor and the People's Park Historic District Advocacy Group.

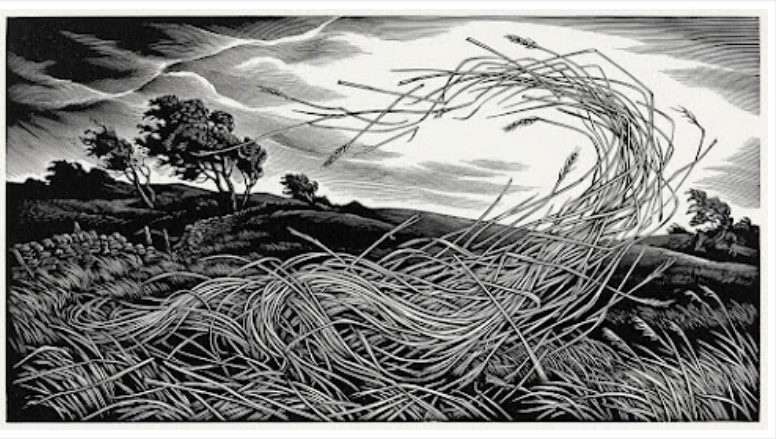
On Jan. 4, 2024, the university moved to clear the park overnight during winter break, cutting down trees and erecting the shipping-container barrier. Seven protesters were arrested, some of whom had chained themselves to trees and equipment. State lawmakers rushed to pass laws to allow for the development, and a June 2024 California Supreme Court ruling put a nail in the coffin of the legal avenues to pushback. The law, Assembly Bill 1307 — the Make UC a Good Neighbor Act — negated one of the primary arguments against the project. The case, Make UC a Good Neighbor v. Regents of the University of California, was decided unanimously...

Full story at https://sfstandard.com/2026/08/06/peoples-park-berkeley-dorm-unhoused/.

at August 18, 2026 No comments:

Labels: UC-Berkeley

Straws in the Wind - Part 437



From Inside Higher Ed: *A judge has dismissed the Common Application Inc. and two other nonuniversity defendants from a lawsuit alleging a conspiracy among 32 selective private colleges and universities to use early-decision admissions to increase tuition. But Judge Angel Kelley of the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts denied the institutions' request to also dismiss the suit against them, allowing the case to continue.*

At selective institutions, an applicant who takes the early-decision route generally has a better chance of acceptance, but they must promise to attend if offered admission. The students who filed this suit last August allege that—even though early-decision policies aren't legally binding—the 32 institutions have agreed not to recruit or admit students who are accepted early decision to other colleges and universities, allowing institutions to charge the accepted students more...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/08/13/early-decision-lawsuit-proceeds-some-defendants-dismissed.

at August 18, 2026 No comments:

Labels: admissions

Less than meets the eye

On Aug. 13, the state senate Appropriations Committee passed AB 713 which has as its goal the hiring by UC of undocumented students. The Regents originally were moving to allow such hiring but halted the effort after the UC general counsel opined that it would violate federal law. Note that when you read the actual provisions of AB 713, it still leaves the decision to the Regents. (There is no such exemption in AB 713 for CSU or the community colleges.) The bill still needs the approval of the full state senate and the governor's signature.

See the full text of the bill below:

Text of AB 713 - AB-713 Public postsecondary education: student employment

Article 3.8. Employment

66029. (a) The University of California, California State University, or California Community Colleges shall not disqualify a student from being hired for an employment position due to their failure to provide proof of federal work authorization, except in either of the following cases:

(1) Where that proof is required by federal law.

(2) Where that proof is required as a condition of a grant that funds the particular employment position for which the student has applied.

(b) The University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges shall treat the prohibition on hiring undocumented noncitizens in Section 1324a(a) of Title 8 of the United States Code as inapplicable because that provision does not apply to any branch of state government.

(c) To the extent student employment is considered a “benefit” for purposes of federal law, this statute shall constitute authorization to provide that benefit for purposes of Section 1621(d) of Title 8 of the United States Code.

(d) The University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges shall implement this article by January 6, 2027.

(e) This article shall apply to the University of California, unless it is found to be inapplicable to the university, then, consistent with Section 67400, this article shall apply to the university only to the extent that the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution, make it applicable.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB713.

at August 18, 2026 No comments:

Labels: community colleges, CSU, diversity, governor, legislature, politics, UC, UC Regents

Online UC Retirement Program

Your UC Retirement System

Description: The Your UC Retirement System class offers an overview of retirement benefits offered by UC.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN? This class covers UC’s primary retirement benefits that provide a foundation for retirement income, and voluntary retirement benefits that offer additional saving opportunities in UC’s 403(b), 457(b) and DC plans.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Employees who want to learn about the benefits offered through the primary and voluntary retirement programs and how they work together to help prepare for a financially secure retirement.

DATE AND TIME: August 19, 9 AM

Sign up for Online Program at:

https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ijclrx04Q7mPZIMcKN-2Yw#/registration.

at August 18, 2026 No comments:

Labels: uc retirement

Monday, August 17, 2026

Hitting the Target

In the recent past, we have gotten used to state revenue forecasts falling below actual results due to unanticipated capital gains in personal income tax receipts from AI. We now have one month's cash report for July - the first month of the current fiscal year. Revenues were a bit ahead of the forecast made when the state budget was enacted last June. But the overage is not from income taxes which fell a bit short of forecast estimates. Corporation taxes were the main source of the overage. And the sales tax ran a bit ahead of forecast values, and by more than pure inflation would suggest compared to the same time last year. So the general economy, as opposed to the world of finance, seems to be doing OK.

It's only one month, of course, but if this becomes a trend, it would mean no unpleasant surprises from the state for UC while the governor finishes out his term, i.e., until January. (There is always room for federal surprises, however.)

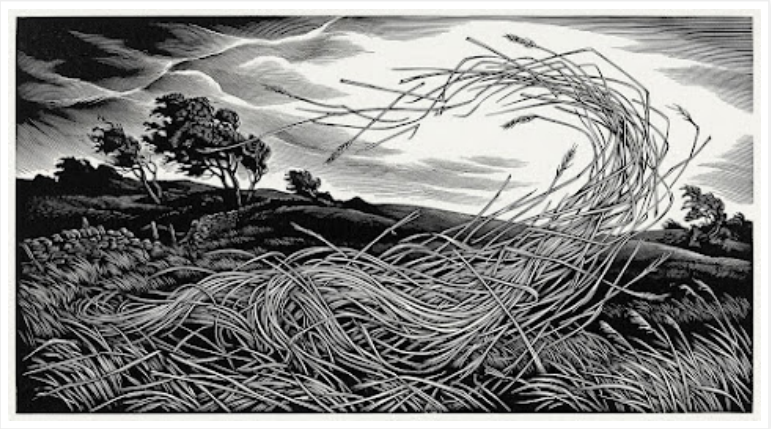
The July 2026 controller's cash report is at:

https://www.sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/July2026StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf.

at August 17, 2026 No comments:

Labels: controller, governor, politics, UC, UC budget crisis

Straws in the Wind - Part 436



From the Kansas Reflector: *An anonymous tip accusing a Chinese-American chemist and researcher of espionage spurred the University of Kansas into action, notifying the U.S. Department of Justice and building a case against its own employee, Feng "Franklin" Tao said in a lawsuit. Tao was a tenured chemical engineering professor at KU in 2019 when he became one of the first professors arrested under the first Trump administration's "China Initiative," a DOJ campaign purportedly created to thwart economic espionage and intellectual property theft.*

After a federal indictment, a criminal conviction and an acquittal by an appeals court, Tao said in a lawsuit filed July 21 in federal court that the university violated state and federal workplace discrimination protections and caused harm to his reputation and career prospects. The lawsuit is Tao's second against KU. He sued in 2025 in an attempt to regain his job and claimed the university discriminated against him. The July lawsuit accused KU of retaliating because of the 2025 discrimination complaints...

Full story at https://kansasreflector.com/briefs/kansas-professor-falsely-accused-of-espionage-wants-university-to-pay-for-firing-harm-to-reputation/.

at August 17, 2026 No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, U of Kansas

Bond

From the Daily Bruin: *The California Assembly Appropriations Committee voted [last] Thursday to advance a UC-sponsored bond measure that would fund scientific research across the state. The California Science and Health Research Bond Act – or Senate Bill 895 – would create the California Foundation for Science and Health Research to award $5 billion in grants and loans to public and private research institutions, including UC campuses. The foundation would prioritize projects affected by federal funding cuts and support research in fields including biomedicine, public health, climate science and wildfire prevention. The committee approved the measure 12-1 after lawmakers amended it to reduce the bond from $12 billion...*

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/08/13/5-billion-science-research-bond-clears-california-assembly-committee.

at August 17, 2026 No comments:

Labels: politics, UC, UC budget crisis

No worries

BruinADVISORY: UCPD Training Exercise on Campus August 17–21

Bruin Community,

UCLA community members are advised that the UCLA Police Department will conduct a planned training exercise from Monday, August 17, through Friday, August 21, during daytime hours at Sproul Cove.

During the exercise, community members in and around Sproul Cove and the Sproul Turnaround may see uniformed personnel moving through the designated training area and buildings while participating in simulated response scenarios. **The training will also include the sound of**

simulated gunfire.

This is a controlled training exercise only. There is no threat to the UCLA community, and no action is required.

The exercise is intended to provide UCPD personnel with realistic, hands-on training and strengthen their preparedness to respond effectively during an actual emergency. Training activity will be limited to the designated area during the scheduled times.

People who are not participating in the exercise are asked to follow posted signs and directions near the training location. UCPD will continue providing normal public safety services to the campus community throughout the training period.

Please do not be alarmed if you see or hear activity associated with the exercise. We appreciate the community's understanding as UCPD conducts this important preparedness training.

Sincerely,

Office of Campus & Community Safety

at August 17, 2026 No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Overhead

From the Daily Californian: ***A White House science report released July 21 called for cutting back overhead costs universities collect on federal research grants, singling out rates that reach more than 40% of direct research costs at major institutions.*** *UC Berkeley's current rate is 60.5%, according to campus spokesperson Dan Mogulof. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy report, titled "Science: A New Golden Age," calls for accelerated grant review cycles, less duplicate paperwork and lower overhead payments that it claims support "administrative bloat."*

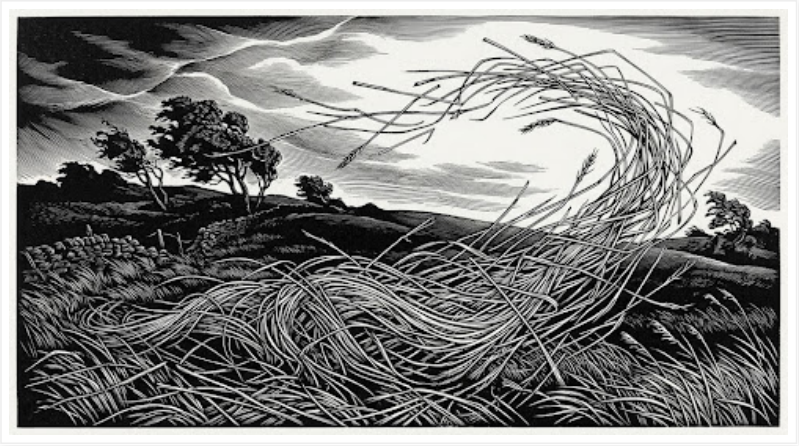
Indirect costs, formally called facilities and administrative costs, represent money the government pays on top of research funding to cover shared expenses of running a lab such as heat, electricity, building maintenance and shared equipment. Universities individually negotiate a rate with the federal agencies that provide the majority of their federal research funding, but often do not collect the full amount. Mogulof said UC Berkeley collected roughly $105 million in overhead costs on federal awards in fiscal year 2025, specifying the 60.5% figure overstates what the university actually collects, because sponsors can restrict what the money can be spent on and lower rates apply to many awards. Mogulof said UC Berkeley's more realistic rate is about 32.8%...

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/national/uc-berkeley-collects-105m-in-research-overhead-costs-as-white-house-calls-for-cuts/article_d858beff-e127-4f7a-a610-6111f596a852.html.

at August 16, 2026 No comments:

Labels: politics, UC-Berkeley

Straws in the Wind - Part 435



From the NY Times: ...*While some universities are completely online, an increasing number of brick-and-mortar schools are expanding their online offerings. Sometimes students can earn full degrees online. In other cases, they take individual classes. In this realm, A.I. cheating is quickly accelerating beyond the copy-and-pasting of chatbot-produced essays and problem sets. A.I. agents have made it possible for students to outsource a semester of work. With simple commands — "log in and complete my quiz" — a student can unleash what is, essentially, an imitation of themselves. Agents can watch lecture videos, take tests, write papers and chat with classmates about reading assignments.*

There have always been questions about whether degrees from online programs are of equal value to those earned on campuses. But policymakers and education leaders have spent two decades championing online learning as an equity tool allowing nontraditional college students, like low-income working parents, to study wherever and whenever is convenient for them. Many students say online classes put degrees within reach. Now, though, the accessibility of A.I. is deepening misgivings about the most accessible form of higher education...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/10/us/ai-cheating-online-degrees.html.

at August 16, 2026 No comments:

Labels: online education

No More

From the Daily Bruin: ***UCLA will shut down two of its childcare centers*** *– one of which employed a teacher arrested for child sexual abuse in 2024 – next June, university leadership announced [last] Thursday evening. The Early Care and Education program – including the Krieger and University Village centers – will close June 30, 2027, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Darnell Hunt said in an email to parents obtained by the Daily Bruin. ECE, which largely serves employees' children, is "not sustainable" for the university to continue operating, Hunt added in the email...*

The closure also comes as UCLA faces budgetary woes*, causing cuts across campus. ECE announced in April that it would raise tuition, stop offering meals for children and pause hiring amid university-wide budget shortfalls. ECE reversed the decision ten days later, after parents protested outside of Chancellor Julio Frenk's residence...*

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/08/14/ucla-childcare-program-which-faced-2024-sex-abuse-case-to-close-amid-budget-deficit.

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The article above goes on to reinforce the idea of UCLA's budget "deficit" as the cause. We won't rehearse here the saga of the firing of UCLA's CFO after he said Bad Things about campus budget statements released before his appointment. The article, however, does rehearse that history and the remarks of the subsequent interim CFO about the "deficit." However, we have no figures on the UCLA budget for last fiscal year (2025-26). And we have no projections for the current year (2026-27).

What we do have are unaudited financial statements for still earlier 2023-24 and 2024-25. As blog readers will know, we put such statements in a UCLA budget page on the Internet Archive so that they won't disappear.*

2023-24 is at:

https://ia903207.us.archive.org/35/items/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026/UCLA%20Annual%20Report%202023-2024.pdf

2024-25 is at:

https://ia903207.us.archive.org/35/items/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026/UCLA%20Annual%20Report%202024-2025.pdf

The bottom line for those two years was not deficits. The net position of UCLA in fact significantly improved in each year by over $1 billion/year. (See page 10 of each report.)

Of course, things could have totally turned around to the negative in 2025-26 and might still look bleak for the current year 2026-27. But we have no macro-level figures for either of these years. There is nothing available comparable to the micro-level data the fired CFO provided before his sudden departure. And our suspicion remains that rather than a withholding of figures being the culprit, an alternative explanation is that the folks in Murphy Hall don't actually know what the numbers are. We'd be delighted to be proved wrong.

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*https://archive.org/details/ucla-budget-book-v-final-feb-2026.

at August 16, 2026 No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Don't even walk on Wilshire

We've been advising you not to drive on Wilshire near UCLA due to subway construction. Now you shouldn't even walk there. See below:

Wilshire Bl: North Sidewalk Closure

Summary

Construction of two emergency stair exits for the UCLA Station will result in a full closure of the north sidewalk along Wilshire Bl between Gayley Av and Westwood Bl starting August 17, 2026, through December.

During this closure, entry to LA Fitness from Wilshire Bl and the Wilshire Bl entrance to the Westwood Medical Plaza will be closed continuously. Visitors may access the buildings through alternate entrances.

There will also be intermittent closures of the south sidewalk along Wilshire Bl between Gayley Av and Westwood Bl to accommodate concrete pours and material deliveries. Most of these activities are anticipated to occur during night shift operations (9pm to 5am) to minimize impacts.

Should both the north and south sides of this Wilshire Bl sidewalk are closed simultaneously, pedestrians will be temporarily detoured via Lindbrook Av.

Noteworthy

All work has received the necessary permits and approvals.

Access to driveways, residences & businesses will be maintained at all times unless notified in advance.

Access for pedestrians will be maintained outside of construction zones.

Access for the Fire Department and emergency responders will be maintained.

Parking restrictions will be implemented in the immediate area of the work zone.

Construction is dynamic and schedules are subject to change.

24/7 Hotline: 213-922-6934

Closure Map

Source: https://cloud.sfmc.metro.net/WilshireBl_NorthSidewalkClosure.

at August 15, 2026 No comments:

Labels: transportation, UCLA

Don't even walk on Wilshire

We've been telling you not to drive on Wilshire near UCLA while the subway was under construction. Now we advise against walking. See below:

Wilshire Bl: North Sidewalk Closure

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Noteworthy

- All work has received the necessary permits and approvals.
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- Access for the Fire Department and emergency responders will be maintained.
- Parking restrictions will be implemented in the immediate area of the work zone.
- Construction is dynamic and schedules are subject to change.
- **24/7 Hotline:** 213-922-6934

Access

- Access for Emergency Vehicles & First Responders will be maintained.
- Local access to residential streets and businesses will be maintained via side streets

Source: https://cloud.sfmc.metro.net/WilshireBl_NorthSidewalkClosure.

at August 15, 2026 No comments:

Labels: transportation, UCLA

What unpatriotic lessons were they teaching at UCLA, c1935?

The caption for this photo from UCLA's digital archive says "Student teachers take Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at UCLA, c1935." But when yours truly was in the first grade in 1948, he was taught that you (must!) put your hand on your heart during the pledge which you must also learn to recite "by heart." No alternatives were offered. And woe to the first grader who didn't do it.

More curious still, is the fact that the student teachers don't seem to be saying anything.

§172. Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.", should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the ***right hand over the heart****. When not in uniform men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.*

Source: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-1994-title36/html/USCODE-1994-title36-chap10.htm.

So, what were they teaching at UCLA in the mid-1930s?

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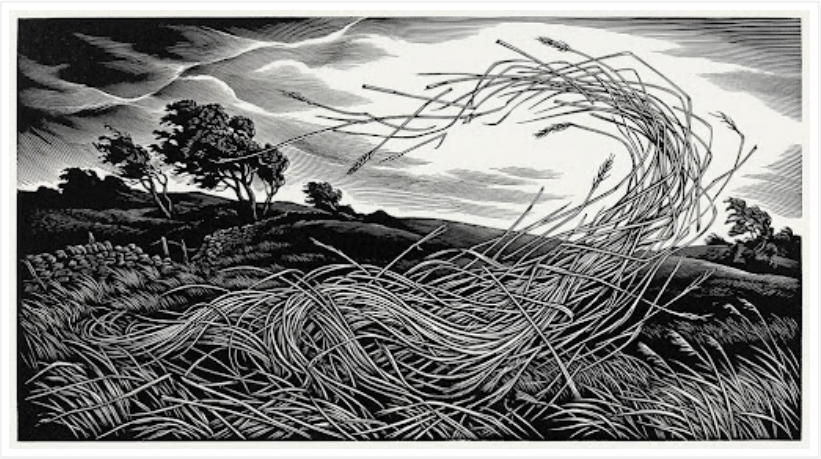
Source: https://digital.library.ucla.edu/catalog/ark:/21198/zz00255160.

at August 15, 2026 No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 434



From Inside Higher Ed: *When Agenia Clark took the helm of Fisk University in late 2023, she made it her mission to secure financial stability for the 160-year-old historically Black institution, which has seen its share of financial struggles and accreditation challenges. That led her to spearhead the development of Quantum Leap, a $900 million master plan whose details were*

first unveiled in May. It aims to grow enrollment at the Nashville campus to 1,500 students—up from a little more than 1,000 now—as well as spend $500 million on renovations and another $400 million on a 100,000-square-foot technology and innovation center, which will house a massive, high-powered data center.

The university says the innovation center "is intended to bring critical technology access to North Nashville, enhancing our curriculum and research capabilities and ensuring our students are prepared to enter the increasingly tech-driven workforce." But it's also become one of the latest flashpoints of the mounting nationwide backlash against the rapid expansion of data centers. Some critics say the proliferation of these centers is following historic urban development patterns that have disproportionately hurt marginalized communities...

While data centers have been around for decades, they've rapidly expanded in volume and capability during the AI boom of the past few years. According to Pew Research Center, as of April, more than 3,000 data centers were operating across the United States—with high concentrations in the South—and at least 1,500 are more in development. A growing number of colleges and universities—including the University of Michigan, the University of Alabama and Oakland University—have announced plans to open their own data centers to support campus infrastructure, AI research and industry collaboration...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/artificial-intelligence/2026/08/07/will-data-center-bring-risk-or-reward-fisk.

at August 15, 2026 No comments:

Labels: Fisk, Oakland U, U of Alabama, U of Michigan

Electric Buses

UCLA began using electric buses in 2016, as the photo above shows. More are planned for the Olympics in 2028, including a wireless charging arrangement built into the street. Local congressional rep Ted Lieu reportedly got $250,000 in federal money recently for such buses at UCLA.

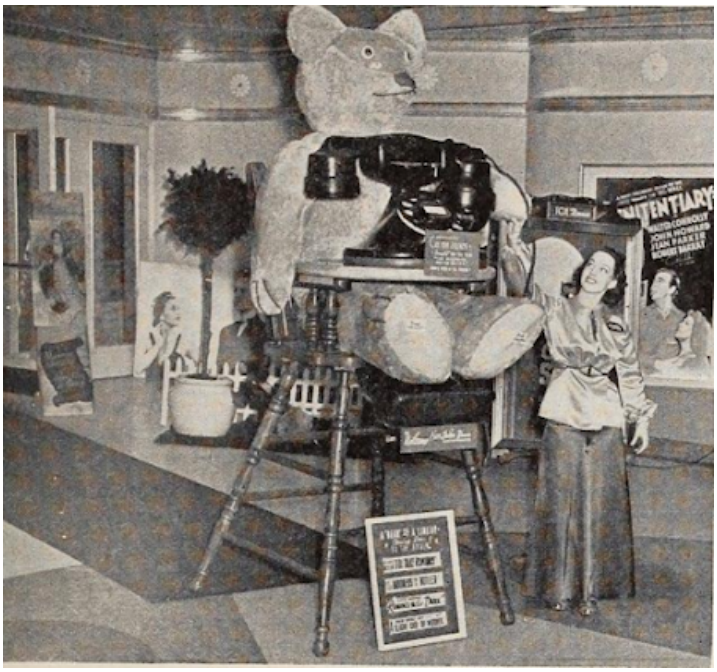
Source of information: https://dailybruin.com/2026/08/12/north-westwood-neighborhood-council-recap-aug-5; https://www.facebook.com/RepTedLieu/photos/1564004928417906/.

at August 15, 2026 No comments:

Labels: transportation, UCLA

Friday, August 14, 2026

Bruin Theater to Reopen



*Joe Bruin at a promotion of the Bruin Theater, 1938**

As blog readers will surely know, there are two sibling old fashioned single-screen theaters in Westwood that were closed and appeared endangered. Now it appear both the more prominent Fox Village (because of its tower) and the Bruin will reopen. They have been used in recent years for movie premiers.

From Deadline: *The Bruin Theater in the Westwood neighborhood of Los Angeles is coming back with a hopeful re-opening in mid-October thanks to Toronto-based exhibitor Rui Pereira. Pereira recently signed a lease with the Martyn Skouras family (descendants of Spyros Panagiotis Skouras, president of 20th Century Fox), which owns the Bruin.*

The Bruin Theater, which originally opened its doors in 1937, closed in July 2024 alongside its historic brother The Village after Regency Theaters' lease ended. Pereira is a longtime theater owner in Canada... Pereira tells Deadline that the theater is in very good shape. He's bringing back the 70MM and 35MM projectors and making upgrades to the digital projectors. Seats are in good working shape in addition to the screen. His mission is to keep the theater's originality intact a la his previous properties. "I want to keep the essence of the theater, I don't want to erase its history or gloss it over," he said.

Pereira added that one hope down the road is to potentially add two screening rooms to the upstairs (15-seat theater venues). He's already been approached by studios for potential premieres and screenings; hence there's a chance we could see doors open before mid-October for special events. Before the venue opens, you'll see the marquee lit up at some point with ads for Warner Bros' Practical Magic 2. There was buzz for some time that Jason Reitman was making a go at the Bruin after purchasing The Village, which is set to undergo further restorations. However, we hear the Bruin wasn't for sale...

Full story at https://deadline.com/2026/07/the-bruin-theater-westwood-re-opening-1237012571/.

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*Image from https://archive.org/details/motionpictureher1301unse/page/n611/mode/2up.

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